

**In the Claims:**

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1. (Original) An immunochemical assay for anti-HM1.24 antibody, said method comprising the steps of reacting soluble HM1.24 antigen protein and anti-HM1.24 antibody contained in a test sample, and then detecting or determining the anti-HM1.24 antibody bound to the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein.
2. (Original) The immunochemical assay according to claim 1 wherein said soluble HM1.24 antigen protein is bound to a support.
3. (Original) An immunochemical assay for soluble HM1.24 antigen protein, said method comprising the steps of reacting anti-HM1.24 antibody and soluble HM1.24 antigen protein contained in a test sample, and then detecting or determining the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein bound to the anti-HM1.24 antibody.
4. (Original) The immunochemical assay according to claim 3 wherein said anti-HM1.24 antibody is bound to a support.
5. (Previously Amended) The immunochemical assay according to claim 1 wherein said soluble HM1.24 antigen protein is fused to another peptide or polypeptide.
6. (Previously Amended) The immunochemical assay according to claim 2 wherein said support is beads or a plate.
7. (Previously Amended) The immunochemical assay according to claim 1 wherein the anti-HM1.24 antibody bound to the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein or the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein bound to the anti-HM1.24 antibody is detected or determined using a primary antibody against the anti-HM1.24 antibody or a primary antibody against the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein.
8. (Previously Amended) The immunochemical assay according to claim 1 wherein the anti-HM1.24 antibody bound to the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein or the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein bound to the anti-HM1.24 antibody is detected or determined using a primary antibody against the anti-HM1.24 antibody or a primary antibody against the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein, and a second antibody against said primary antibody.

9. (Currently Amended) The immunochemical assay according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 8, wherein the primary antibody or the second antibody is labeled with a radioisotope, an enzyme, biotin/avidin or a fluorogenic substance.

10. (Withdrawn) The soluble HM1.24 antigen protein having the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 1.

11. (Withdrawn) A fusion protein of the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein according to claim 10 and another peptide or polypeptide.

12. (Withdrawn) DNA encoding the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein or the fusion protein of the soluble HM1.24 antigen protein and another peptide or polypeptide according to claim 10.

13. (New) The immunochemical assay according to claim 7, wherein the primary antibody is labeled with a radioisotope, an enzyme, biotin/avidin or a fluorogenic substance.

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